

Table 14.4: Percent Reporting Hearing Problems^{1,2}

Symptom	Total (N=1002)	Age Group			Disability Level		
		65-74 (N=388)	75-84 (N=311)	85+ (N=303)	Moderate ³ (N=343)	ADL Difficulty	
						Receives No Help (N=478)	Receives Help (N=181)
Do you use a hearing aid? Yes	9.3	4.8	9.2	22.8	8.7	10.5	7.2
Can you hear well enough to use the telephone? No	5.9	4.6	6.0	9.1	5.1	6.9	4.6
Can you hear well enough to carry on conversation in a crowded room? No	18.3	15.0	19.4	25.2	14.8	21.3	17.5
Do you have trouble hearing another person if there is a radio or TV playing in the same room? Yes	45.9	40.7	48.0	55.9	39.1	48.3	53.7
Do you have difficulty hearing when someone speaks in a whisper? ⁴ Yes	50.9	41.0	55.4	67.6	45.9	53.2	54.8
Does a hearing problem cause you to feel frustrated when talking to members of your family? ⁴ Yes Not applicable ⁵	12.5 31.3	10.1 38.5	12.4 28.0	19.6 19.1	10.4 36.8	12.8 28.1	15.8 28.6
Does a hearing problem cause you to attend church, movies, con- certs or other events less often than you would like? ⁴ Yes Not applicable ⁵	6.1 31.3	3.8 38.5	6.7 28.0	11.1 19.1	3.9 36.8	7.9 28.1	5.4 28.6
Does a hearing problem cause you to have arguments with family members? ⁴ Yes Not applicable ⁵	5.1 31.3	4.2 38.5	5.3 28.0	7.3 19.1	3.6 36.8	5.7 28.1	6.9 28.6
Does a hearing problem cause you difficulty when listening to television or the radio? ⁴ Yes Not applicable ⁵	13.3 31.3	9.3 38.5	14.3 28.0	22.4 19.1	9.7 36.8	14.9 28.1	16.4 28.6
Do you feel that any difficulty with your hearing limits or hampers your personal or social life? ⁴ Yes	9.0	5.8	10.1	15.7	5.6	11.5	9.3

(Women's Health and Aging Study, baseline interview, 1992-1995)

¹ Unless otherwise specified, all variables have less than 2% missing data. Results are based on non-missing data.

² Descriptive statistics are based on weighted data.

³ No ADL difficulty; disabled in two or more domains (see Chapter 1).

⁴ Item from Hearing Handicap Inventory for the Elderly-Screening Version. Ventry IM, Weinstein B. (1982). The Hearing Handicap Inventory for the Elderly: A new tool. *Ear Hear* 3:128-134.

⁵ Includes participants reporting no hearing problems in the first five items of this table.